

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-24 remain pending on the present application. As noted above, the Group I invention including claims 17-21 has been elected for further prosecution on the merits, responsive to the current Restriction Requirement dated June 13, 2002.

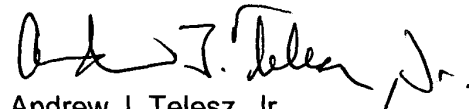
Favorable consideration and early allowance with present application are earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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AJT:vlw

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